

April 28, 1950.

Dr. Stan Shapiro,
Dept. Bacteriology,
Iowa State College,
Ames, Iowa.

Dear Stan:

Your postcard shows an incredible degree of optimism. Were your 36 (1) different combinations of mutants all from the same strain? If they are, my (unsolicited) advice would be to concentrate on different strains for further tests. Practically any combination of mutants from *E. coli* K-12 will show recombination easily, whereas other strains will not. Since the specificity seems to be primarily between strains rather than between mutants of the same strain, we have been following the policy with *Salmonella* of investigating only a few mutants from a given strain, in order to cover as many different strains as possible. There are a number of well-defined *Aerobacter* strains (e.g. *cloacae*) which are used commercially, and are centrally available. In order to avoid someone else's future duplication, I have felt that it is best to survey such well-defined types first.

Unfortunately, we haven't planned to go to Baltimore, so we won't be able to see you there. But both Gowen and Workman are visiting here next week, so we'll be seeing quite a bit of Iowa.

Have you received "Microbial Genetics Bulletin" yet? I've asked Dr. Witkin at Cold Spring Harbor to put you on the mailing list.

Esther sends her best,

Sincerely,
Joshua Lederberg